

MONTANA ECONOMY AT A GLANCE

February 2003

UNEMPLOYMENT BY COUNTY

Not seasonally adjusted

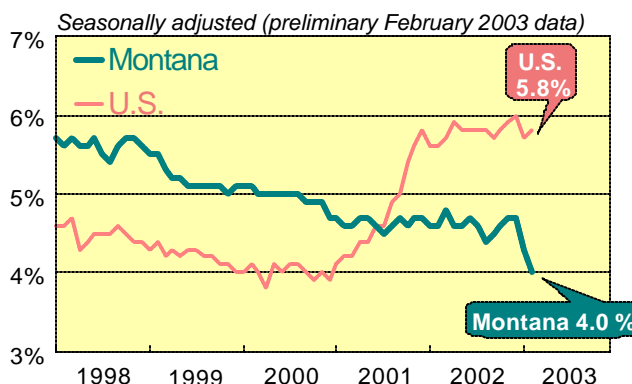
| | Feb. 2002 | Feb. 2003* |
|----------------|-----------|------------|
| UNITED STATES | 6.1% | 6.4% |
| MONTANA | 5.9% | 5.2% |
| Cascade ** | 5.3% | 4.7% |
| Missoula ** | 4.9% | 4.4% |
| Yellowstone ** | 4.6% | 3.9% |
| Beaverhead | 4.6% | 4.3% |
| Big Horn | 18.1% | 18.8% |
| Blaine | 8.4% | 6.2% |
| Broadwater | 5.8% | 5.8% |
| Carbon | 6.5% | 4.6% |
| Carter | 2.3% | 2.6% |
| Chouteau | 3.8% | 3.0% |
| Custer | 4.7% | 4.8% |
| Daniels | 3.9% | 2.7% |
| Dawson | 3.4% | 3.2% |
| Deer Lodge | 7.2% | 5.7% |
| Fallon | 4.0% | 2.8% |
| Fergus | 6.8% | 6.7% |
| Flathead | 7.7% | 6.5% |
| Gallatin | 3.0% | 3.0% |
| Garfield | 4.2% | 3.1% |
| Glacier | 11.9% | 12.4% |
| Golden Valley | 8.3% | 8.4% |
| Granite | 8.5% | 7.2% |
| Hill | 4.2% | 3.7% |
| Jefferson | 6.0% | 4.7% |
| Judith Basin | 8.5% | 5.4% |
| Lake | 10.8% | 8.4% |
| Lewis & Clark | 5.2% | 4.6% |
| Liberty | 3.3% | 3.7% |
| Lincoln | 14.0% | 16.9% |
| McCone | 3.1% | 4.3% |
| Madison | 5.2% | 5.6% |
| Meagher | 8.0% | 7.1% |
| Mineral | 12.0% | 10.2% |
| Musselshell | 10.1% | 7.4% |
| Park | 5.7% | 4.8% |
| Petroleum | 4.5% | 6.6% |
| Phillips | 7.3% | 6.1% |
| Pondera | 5.7% | 4.6% |
| Powder River | 4.8% | 5.2% |
| Powell | 5.9% | 6.2% |
| Prairie | 7.5% | 5.0% |
| Ravalli | 6.8% | 6.4% |
| Richland | 6.9% | 5.0% |
| Roosevelt | 8.8% | 7.0% |
| Rosebud | 7.1% | 6.6% |
| Sanders | 12.7% | 10.1% |
| Sheridan | 5.6% | 3.9% |
| Silver Bow | 6.3% | 5.4% |
| Stillwater | 4.8% | 3.1% |
| Sweet Grass | 4.5% | 2.7% |
| Teton | 4.5% | 4.4% |
| Toole | 3.3% | 2.4% |
| Treasure | 7.3% | 7.7% |
| Valley | 5.4% | 4.3% |
| Wheatland | 6.8% | 6.2% |
| Wibaux | 6.3% | 2.8% |

*February 2003 rate preliminary

** Cascade=Great Falls MSA
Missoula= Missoula MSA
Yellowstone=Billings MSA

FEBRUARY 2003 HIGHLIGHTS

Unemployment



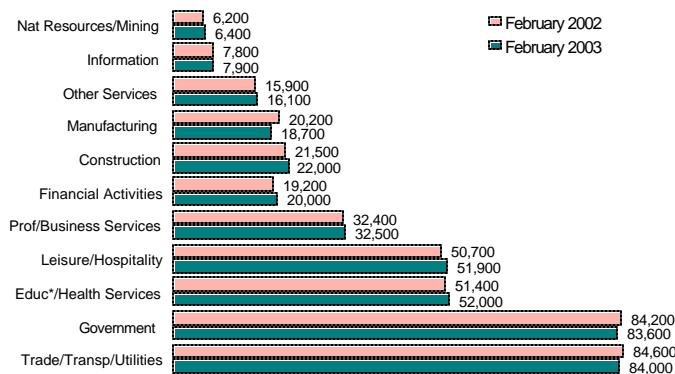
Montana's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate continues to be lower than the U.S. rate. The state's February unemployment of 4.0 percent was 1.8 percentage points lower than the nation's.

Earnings

Average weekly earnings for Montana's private sector production workers were up 4.8 percent over the year in February, outpacing the 3.0 percent over-the-year increase in U.S. inflation.

Nonag Payroll Employment

Montana Jobs (Seasonally Adjusted)



*Private educational services. (Public education is included in the government sector.)

Montana's seasonally-adjusted, nonagricultural payroll employment was up about 2,900 jobs (0.7 percentage points) over the year in February. The largest over-the-year gains were in leisure & hospitality, financial activities, and private educational & health services.

FROM THE 2000 CENSUS

MT RESERVATION POPULATION, 2000

| Reservation* | Native American | Total |
|--------------|-----------------|--------|
| Blackfeet | 8,507 | 10,100 |
| Crow | 5,165 | 6,894 |
| Flathead | 6,999 | 26,172 |
| Fort Belknap | 2,790 | 2,959 |
| Fort Peck | 6,391 | 10,321 |
| N. Cheyenne | 4,029 | 4,470 |
| Rocky Boy | 2,578 | 2,676 |

*Reservation & trust lands
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

For more information, visit the Montana Census and Economic Information Center website at <http://ceic.commerce.state.mt.us>.

ONLINE AT

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MONTANA'S LARGEST OCCUPATIONS

Montana Occupations with the Most Annual Job Openings Due to Industry Growth AND Worker Replacements 2000 - 2010 Job Projections (Include Self-Employed)

| Occupation | Average Annual Openings* | Occupation | Average Annual Openings* |
|--|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Retail Salespersons | 933 | Landscaping & Groundskeeping Workers | 174 |
| Cashiers | 627 | Stock Clerks & Order Fillers | 172 |
| Waiters & Waitresses | 533 | Managers, All Other | 168 |
| Child Care Workers | 443 | Receptionists & Information Clerks | 157 |
| General & Operations Managers | 441 | Customer Service Representatives | 156 |
| First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Retail Sales Workers | 410 | Truck Drivers, Light or Delivery Services | 156 |
| Carpenters | 404 | Hairdressers, Hairstylists & Cosmetologists | 150 |
| Combined Food Preparation & Serving Workers, Inc Fast Food | 364 | Personal & Home Care Aides | 150 |
| Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer | 347 | Executive Secretaries & Administrative Assistants | 142 |
| Registered Nurses | 322 | Hotel, Motel & Resort Desk Clerks | 140 |
| Maids & Housekeeping Cleaners | 317 | Secretaries, Except Legal, Medical & Executive | 140 |
| Janitors & Cleaners, Except Maids & Housekeeping Cleaners | 316 | Counter & Rental Clerks | 137 |
| Bookkeeping, Accounting & Auditing Clerks | 310 | Construction Laborers | 136 |
| Office Clerks, General | 289 | Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education | 134 |
| Bartenders | 269 | Home Health Aides | 125 |
| Farmers & Ranchers | 257 | Real Estate Brokers | 124 |
| First-Line Sprvrs/Mngrs Construct Trades & Extract Wrks | 255 | Computer Support Specialists | 122 |
| Counter Attendants, Cafeteria/Food Concession/Coffee Shop | 224 | Accountants & Auditors | 121 |
| Sales Reps, Wholesale & Manufact, Exc Tech & Sci Products | 222 | Painters, Construction & Maintenance | 115 |
| Laborers & Freight, Stock & Material Movers, Hand | 209 | Secondary School Teachers, Exc Special & Voc Education | 113 |
| Automotive Service Technicians & Mechanics | 201 | Cleaners of Vehicles & Equipment | 110 |
| Cooks, Restaurant | 198 | Cooks, Fast Food | 108 |
| Teacher Assistants | 187 | Food Service Managers | 105 |
| Food Preparation Workers | 178 | First-Line Sprvrs/Mngrs of Office & Admin Support Workers | 102 |
| Nursing Aides, Orderlies & Attendants | 176 | Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurses | 102 |

*Numbers may not add due to rounding.

Source: Research & Analysis Bureau, Montana Department of Labor and Industry

- The Research and Analysis Bureau develops occupational job projections to help people anticipate which occupations are likely to produce jobs in the future. Projections were made to the year 2010 based on data from 2000 and previous years. Some job openings will be generated by industry growth. The rest will result from replacing workers who leave existing jobs for various reasons.
- More detailed projections for over 700 occupations—with wage and training information—will be available on the bureau's website in May.